

LE MULTISECTORIEL

Le journal du Multisectoriel de la FEESP-CSN

SPECIAL ENGLISH EDITION FOR NUNAVIK !

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Federal council of the FEESP, May 4, 5 and 6 in Granby

Hope to see you there !

All FEESP unions received the first notification to attend the Federal Council that was sent the week of February 8, and you probably also got the second notification, containing the letter of credential you'll need to get registered, as well as the form to get financial aid, for unions with 70 members or less or that are distant. If you are missing any information, you can go to the [FEESP internet site](#), to get all the needed info. Since our sector has quite a lot of unions with 70 members or less, you better check out the policy!

We hope to see large numbers of unions from the sector at this meeting, where we will learn about mediation and talk about social medias. There will also be a panel on the effects of the Québec austerity program, and several presentations on subjects of interest to us: the importance of daycare, the fis-

cal agreement between Québec and the municipalities, our demands concerning the recognition of the special skills needed by a school bus driver, etc. The delegates will also be electing a new person on the FEESP executive committee, at the position of Vice-president/treasurer.

Our sector, the *Multisectoriel*, will also hold a meeting of its unions, with a special presentation on the balance between work, studies and family.

When union delegates participate in the decision-making bodies of the federation and the sector, it means the unions can take an active part in the decision-making and the orientations of these organisations, and therefore make sure they will better respond to their needs.

Hope to see you in Granby in May!

Welcome!

The executive committee of the *Multisectoriel* is happy to welcome the **SYNDICAT DES AGENT-ES DE SÉCURITÉ DE ADM -CSN**, which recently joined the FEESP-CSN (Union of airport security employees at the Montreal Airport)

We welcome your ideas!

We would like to present items that interest you in the journal. Your sector executive invites you to submit ideas for articles or chronicles or tell us about events to come in your union. Or why not submit an article you have written yourself, who knows! **To contact us :**

feesp.montreal1@csn.qc.ca

A challenge-filled task!

An interview with Victor Mesher, president of the Kativik Regional Government employees union – CSN.

I had the pleasure of talking with Victor Mesher, who works at the finance department in Kuujjuaq, for the Kativik Regional Government.

Victor was grievance officer for 4 years, and has been the president of the union since 2013.

What exactly does Victor and his team do ? They actually represent all



In Kangiqsujaq. Back row: Victor Mesher, Maali Tukirqi, Paulusie Nappaaluk, Aisik Sakiagak, Kevin Kristensen et Ettuk Sakiagak. Front row: Qalingo Saviadjuk, Pierre Philie



Elisapie Kuananack, Mesher and Steve Grasser in Salluit

(in french: MRC or *Municipalité régionale de comté*), which would also take care of police and fire departments (civil security), daycare programs, training and

development, regional parks, as well as snow removal, maintenance of numerous buildings (both offices and apartments), airport towers and maintenance (often it is the only means of transport between the Northern Villages), etc. There are a lot of administrative positions, from support staff all the way to professionals (as an example, the lawyers of the legal department are also unionized!).

the FEESP members in Nunavik. There are a lot of different jobs in the regional government, which we can think of as a big regional county municipality or RCM



Youth house, Kangiqsujaq

Victor and the other executive officers have tremendous tasks to accomplish, since the territory is equivalent to a third of the Province of Quebec! In this immense territory there are 14 villages, and three languages to communicate in : English, French and Inuktitut (there are actually several Inuktitut dialects). English is the most common language used by all in the workplace, says Mesher. Union General Assemblies

take place around phones, village by village, the employees gather together in one place around a speakerphone. Right now, the executive officers do not all work in the same village. There are now five officers in Kuujjuaq and one in Inukjuak (on the Hudson Bay). Arranging an executive meeting can be a challenge at times.

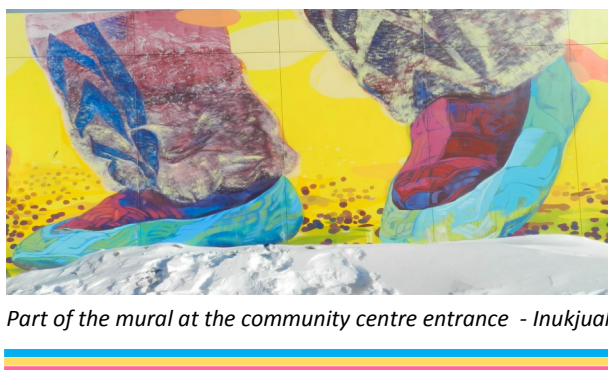
Just to make it more complicated, the union executive represents units that have only two or three members (in small villages for example or in small airports), and others that have more than a hundred members (like in Kuujjuaq). It's a little like our multi-sector, where we have unions with very few members and others who have hundreds of members. We know it is a big challenge!

A new Health and safety committee was just formed at KRG, with the help of the CSN reports Mesher. Right now it is still learning the job. «We would like to create a training course on Fire drills, for example how to get out safely of the various type of buildings.



Hélène Madore, FEESP union advisor, in front of Inukjuak

to get inside, when to stop work». Just to let you know, it was -35° when I talked to Mesher.



Part of the mural at the community centre entrance - Inukjuak

Victor and his team are also negotiating the renewal of the collective agreement, which ended on December 31, 2015. The negotiations take place in English, and the texts are then translated in French and Inuktitut. The development of more documents in English by the Federation will help the union executive.

There is also a training course on intense cold to be prepared – when

Hélène Madore, the FEESP union advisor working with the KRG union executive, visited several villages last February, with Mesher. Victor told me he was very happy Hélène could be with him, and with the interest the FEESP is taking in his community in spite of the distance and the language barriers.



Kuujjuarapik. From left : David Petagumskum , Jesse Jones, Lizzie Ann Esperon, Agnes Fleming, Jeanie Aragutak, Charlie Ningiuk (member of the union executive committee, from Inukjuak), Laura Ekomiak and Lawson Macdonald Tuckatuck.

When I asked Victor if he was going to be present at the Federal council in Granby in May, he told me he would like to participate, along with other union executive members, Charlie Ningiuk and Geneviève Charland-Arcand.

This is how we finished the interview. I want to thank Victor for the time he spent talking with me.

Nakurmik Victor!

Bernard Duchastel
President of the
Multisectoriel



Inukjuak. Back row: Annette Lacroix, Tommy Palliser, Elsie Kasudluak, Mary Joy Nayoumealuk, Victor Mesher and Alacie Elijassiapik. Front row: Charlie Ningiuk, Leah Alasuak, Annie Elijassiapik, Ida Nayoumealuk and Elijassie Nowkawalk.

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Waiting for spring ... in Pivurnituq!

If you want to hear Inuktitut and learn a few words or phrases, check this site : <http://www.tusaalanga.ca/fr>.

You can see all the pictures « Kativik Regional... » on the FEESP Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/feespcsn/photos_stream?tab=photos_albums



Pivurnituq: Eeta Tupalak, Stanley Alasuak, Victor Mesher, Jusipi Tullaugak, Louisa Qaurritaiyuk, Rynee Uqaituk.

